

HEALTH
3 NOV 59
54

Library

Sandbach
Urban



District
Council

Report

on the

*Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the District*

for the year ended

December 31st, 1958

Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

11 WEST STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 215

Senior Public Health Inspector

N. A. ROGERS, M.S.I.A.



To the Chairman and Members
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1958 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

Again there has been an increase in the Estimated Population. There was also a considerable increase in the number of births but regrettably this was accompanied by a rise in the number of deaths.

It should be noted that this latter rise is due mainly to Cancer and Cardio-Vascular diseases. Although absolute cure for some of these conditions must await further progress in medical science there is no doubt that a good deal of preventive work could be done particularly in the early diagnosis of some cancer cases.

There was no undue prevalence of infectious disease and certain diseases like Diphtheria which has disappeared from our midst are being followed by others such as Whooping Cough. This excellent state of affairs depends of course on a high rate of immunisation, as it is certain that recurrence will take place if parents do not avail themselves of the appropriate preventive inoculations. In this connection considerable work was done during the year in carrying out vaccination against Poliomyelitis. The response from the public was excellent and large numbers of children and adults were protected. The prospects of eliminating Poliomyelitis from the community appears to be good.

It is satisfactory to report that the number of cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis are diminishing. This is undoubtedly associated with the improvement in the quality of our milk supplies brought about by the Tuberculin testing of the cattle.

The prevention of the spread of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is constantly being tackled by regular supervision of cases and contacts and by occasional visits of the Mass Radiography Unit. Such an occasion occurred in 1956 and it behoves everyone to take full advantage of these visits when they occur.

However, we have in the B.C.G. vaccination a most valuable and proved weapon in the fight against Tuberculosis. This vaccination is available to contacts of cases and to school children in their 13th year. It is easy to do and causes the minimum of upset. Results have shown that this procedure prevents the onset of Tuberculosis in early adult life to a remarkable extent. The work is carried out regularly in the Schools and parents have the opportunity of availing themselves of this benefit for their children.

Once again I wish to thank the Clerk, Mr. Skeath, and his staff, for their help and advice ; to Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Senior Public Health Inspector, and Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, for their help in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health

The figures in brackets are for the year 1957
to enable comparisons to be made

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 9840 (9780)

Births— (Registrar-General's Estimate)

Live Births—		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		
Legitimate ...	...	150	(117)	82	(62)	68	(55)	
Illegitimate	...	7	(5)	2	(3)	5	(2)	
Still Births—								
Legitimate ...	...	3	(4)	1	(1)	2	(3)	
Illegitimate	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1958							15.9	(12.4)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population							16.4	(16.1)
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births							18.7	(31.7)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births							21.6	(22.4)
Still birth rate per 1000 total population							.3	(.4)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population							.36	(.36)

Infantile Mortality—

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate ...	...	3	(2)	1	(2)	2	(—)
Illegitimate	...	1	(1)	1	(—)	—	(1)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births						25.4	(24.5)
Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales						22.5	(23.0)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births						20.0	(17.1)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births						172.8	(200.0)

Deaths—

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Deaths (all ages)	...	134	(90)	67	(52)	67	(38)
Death rate per 1000 estimated average popu- lation	... ..	...	...	...	...	14.8	(10.0)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population	... ..	...	...	...	...	11.7	(11.5)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :

CAUSE							Total	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...		1	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	...	...		—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...		—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...					—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...			6	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...				6	6	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...		1	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...		2	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...					13	4	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...		—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...				19	8	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...		18	12	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...			2	—	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	12	7	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...				—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...			—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...			1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...		4	1	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...		1	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...			—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...		1	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...				29	14	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...		1	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...			—	—	—
TOTAL							134	67	67

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(7.9)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Miss L. Jacks, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.,
“ Abbey Croft,” Abbey Road, Sandbach.
Telephone Sandbach 309.

Miss M. E. Slack,
Marriott House, Sandbach.
Telephone Sandbach 309.

The total number of attendances during the year is slightly less than in 1957, and is accounted for by the extremely bad weather during the year.

As pointed out in many of the previous Annual Reports, we are seriously handicapped by the inadequacy of the premises and it is hoped that by the time the next Annual Report is presented the new clinic will be well on the way to completion.

I must also draw attention once again to the very valuable work being carried out in the preparation classes for pregnant mothers. As will be noted the increase in the number of new cases and the total of new attendances reflects on the value attached by the mothers to the work being done.

There is no doubt that from the lectures, demonstrations and exercises carried out a feeding of confidence is engendered in the mother and the fear of labour diminished.

Statistics

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach	136	—	—	2176	617	723	102	737	14.4
Welfare Centre	(120)	(—)	(—)	(2330)	(827)	(711)	(104)	(856)	(17.0)

Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	17 (15)	121 (79)	11 (9)	11 (8.7)
E. N. T. Clinic	9 (8)	12 (11)	7 (9)	1.7 (1.2)

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	81 (63)	654 (622)	33 (25)	19.8 (24.8)
E. N. T. Clinic	69 (46)	70 (59)	8 (9)	8.7 (6.5)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class	64 (46)	620 (580)	50 (50)	12.4 (11.6)

Welfare Foods sold—1958

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	124 (159)	— (—)	— (—)	122 (118)	286 (396)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	2690 (3343)	68 (88)	687 (688)	717 (982)	4546 (6482)

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M. (full time)	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 731
Hoyle, I. (Mrs) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
Gerrard, E. E. (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 281
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	5 Elworth Street, Sandbach	Sandbach 256

Once again it is satisfactory to report that not a single complaint was received throughout the year.

Nurse Mrs. M. Wainwright, joined the staff and is accommodated in the property rented by the County Council. This house is most unsatisfactory and the question of re-housing this nurse is a matter of urgency.

I am pleased to report that Nurse Mrs. I. Hoyle who has acted in a part-time capacity for a number of years has now been engaged on the full-time staff.

Births—

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
93	2	33	1	14	—
(95)	(2)	(32)	(—)	(2)	(—)

Vaccination and Immunisation

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Pre-school children	1	(2)
School children	8	(—)
	—	—
	9	(2)
	—	—
Reinforcing Injections	30	(26)

Whooping Cough Immunisation—

Pre-school children	—	(1)
School children	—	(—)
	—	—
	—	(1)
	—	—

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)—

Pre-school children	118	(117)
School children	1	(4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	119	(121)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Primary Vaccination—

Pre-school children	82	(76)
School children	10	(5)
Adults	9	(10)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	101	(91)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Re-Vaccination—

Pre-school children	—	(1)
School Children	6	(1)
Adults	17	(14)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23	(16)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Public Health Laboratory Service

The regular routine sampling of water supplies is carried out by the Water Board. The Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, is available for bacteriological analysis of water, milk, ice-cream and food, as and when we require it. They also undertake to carry out examinations of all swabs submitted. This is a free service, and I wish to record the ever-ready help and assistance I have received from Dr. W. Parker, the Director of this Laboratory, particularly in connection with food poisoning and infectious disease cases.

Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

During the year consideration was given to the absorption of the B.R.C.S. Sandbach Ambulance Service in the County Scheme. A decision was reached that with effect from April 1st, 1959, the County would take over the service. This move was inevitable once the County decided to institute Radio and central control as it would have been anomalous for the ambulances in Sandbach not to have the benefit of this improved method of communication.

Our thanks are due to Colonel Hovey and his Committee who throughout the years have given such great service to Sandbach and district.

Ambulance Figures—1958

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mileages—												
—	551	683	681	535	697	781	669	891	1134	1070	937	
(872)	(750)	(1000)	(623)	(690)	(538)	(733)	(716)	(619)	(863)	(661)	(927)	
Patients—												
—	79	98	93	59	98	108	124	154	202	155	168	
(97)	(125)	(133)	(76)	(87)	(49)	(112)	(91)	(88)	(117)	(136)	(138)	
Journeys—												
—	17	24	22	20	27	34	23	27	35	32	29	
(25)	(27)	(31)	(19)	(29)	(19)	(23)	(26)	(18)	(31)	(21)	(22)	

Utilicon Ambulance Figures—1958

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mileages—												
3646	2742	3386	3493	3517	3750	3874	3543	3766	3635	3306	3476	
(4055)	(3053)	(3739)	(3032)	(3413)	(2464)	(3546)	(3786)	(3119)	(3076)	(2629)	(2479)	
Patients—												
460	287	291	311	366	406	479	373	469	433	276	315	
(358)	(281)	(319)	(293)	(357)	(263)	(333)	(420)	(344)	(291)	(290)	(274)	
Journeys—												
114	82	106	98	114	122	116	96	112	107	100	96	
(112)	(96)	(95)	(93)	(102)	(86)	(108)	(117)	(96)	(103)	(85)	(83)	

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1958 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1958 :

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	21	(12)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	12	(13)
						33	(25)

Home Helps employed at December 31st, 1958 :

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	19	(9)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	2	(5)
						21	(14)

Applications received during 1958 :

Confinement	...	...	...	...	2	(3)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	5	(1)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	10	(7)
					<hr/> 18	<hr/> (11)

Cases attended during 1958 :

Confinement	...	...	...	...	4	(1)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	5	(3)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	(—)
Aged and Infirm...	...	...	...	...	23	(18)
					<hr/> 33	<hr/> (22)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The district is at present partly supplied from the Arclid Works and partly from the Delamere Boreholes. The quality of the Arclid raw water is very poor and the quantity available is limited and trunk mains are at present being laid to bring other water to Sandbach. A 15 inch main is to run from the end of the existing 12 inch at Elworth to the centre of the town and a 21 inch pre-stressed concrete main is being laid from Hurleston to Tetton where it will supply into the existing 12 inch. It is expected that these two mains will be completed in approximately two months time and when they are the Arclid source will be abandoned. By this time the new treatment works at Hurleston are expected to be in production and Sandbach will then be supplied with River Dee water. It will be fully treated at the Hurleston Works and will be of moderate hardness. Part of the 15 inch main is already in use, enabling a greater area of the district to be supplied from the Delamere Boreholes, as a consequence it has been possible already to reduce slightly the amount of water taken from Arclid.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During 1958 preparation of the following schemes was proceeding (a) Demolition of Elworth Sewage Disposal Works, construction of Pumping Station, Pumping Main and Sewers to convey the flow to Hind Heath Sewage Works and the enlargement of the Hind Heath Sewage Works.

(b) The enlargement of the Sewer between Well Bank and the Old Sewage Works and ancillary works in connection therewith.

(c) Demolition of the Cookesmere Lane Sewage Works, construction of Pumping Station and Pumping Main.

It is hoped that tenders will be invited for all these works and the construction commenced during 1959.

Housing

The number of houses erected during 1958 was as follows :

(a)	By the Councill	6	(34)
(b)	By Private Enterprise ...	16	(38)

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1958**

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over				
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Measles	1	—	2	—	1	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	—	1	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1958 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1949.

Notifications—1949 to 1958

	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15		1					1													
15-25							1				1		1		1					
25-35	1		1		1						1								1	
35-45					1												2			
45-55											1									
55-65			1		1				2						1		1			
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15				1																
15-25	2						1	1			1	1						1		
25-35			1	1			1		1		1				1		1		1	
35-45			1						1								1			
45-55																				
55-65	1																			
65 & over															1					
TOTAL	4	1	4	2	3	—	3	2	4	—	5	1	1	—	4	—	5	1	2	—

Deaths—1949 to 1958

	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35	1				1															
35-45					1															
45-55								1					1							
55-65					1		1			1									1	
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35			1		1															
35-45								1												
45-55																				
55-65					1															
65 & over																				
TOTAL	1	—	1	—	5	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

Cases on Register at December 31st, 1958

				Up to									Total
				1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	
Male	Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	—	2	5	4	4	3	—	18
Female	Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	—	1	6	1	2	—	1	11
Male	Non-Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	4
Female	Non-Pulmonary	..	..	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	5

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and visits during 1958	2060
Number of Informal Notices served during 1958	95
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1958	99
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/58 ...	6
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1958	10
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1958	10
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/58...	—

The number of complaints with regard to house disrepair has decreased since the passing of the Rent Act, 1957, and owners seem a little less unwilling than formerly to carry out repairs. It was not found necessary to resort to Court Preceeding in this respect in any instance during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

For the first time in a number of years it was found easy to secure replacements when vacancies occurred in the Refuse Collection team. The “ ill-wind ” expressed by the increase in the national unemployment figures undoubtedly blew gently in favour of the recruitment of men for the unpopular job of Refuse Collection.

Throughout the majority of the year the 3825 dustbins in the District were emptied at 8-day intervals. It is inevitable with a small labour force that holidays, sickness, very bad weather, and vehicle faults, all have an adverse effect on the collection cycle, but every effort has been made to keep this to a minimum. There has been hardly any absenteeism, and for both this and a generally good standard of work the men concerned are to be congratulated.

Supply of Dustbins

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 57 properties were supplied in this way.

Refuse Disposal

Most of the refuse collected has been disposed of at the Council's “ uncontrolled ” tip at Malkins Bank. On this waste land owned by the Council there is still tipping space for a number of years. Nevertheless, from time to time, refuse is tipped on private

land at the request of farmers for the purpose of filling and re-claiming depressions which have previously been unworkable. Sanction is given for this method of refuse disposal only where it is felt that no subsequent nuisance could arise.

Conservancy

The Council have continued the weekly collection and emptying of pail closets by direct labour. 24 houses and 3 other premises are thus served. The scheme works quite satisfactorily, and the ultimate disposal takes place at the sewage works.

Salvage

Fluctuations within the Waste Paper industry during 1958 made it difficult for Local Authorities to apply a steady policy in regard to Salvage. In January collectors were asked to increase the output, but in May asked to limit it. In August instructions were issued that newspapers and magazines must not be included in baled paper sent to the mills, but in September a further communication stated that newspapers and magazines could be included for a further few months. In December the selling price was reduced by 10/- to £7 per ton. At the end of 1958 the financial position was being kept under close review, but it did appear that it would still be possible to continue waste paper salvage on an economic basis. Cardboard boxes are still sold to a local engineering firm for packing materials.

The following amounts of salvage were disposed of during 1958 :

	£	s	d
Waste paper—87 tons, 13½ cwt. ...	657	11	6
Cardboard Boxes—6919	86	9	9
Cast Iron—18 cwt.	5	8	0
	<hr/>		
	£749	9	3
	<hr/>		

The net profit for the collection and sale of Salvage during the Financial Year ending March 31st, 1958 was £145.

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator, working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector, spends approximately three-quarters of his working time on these duties. Another workman attended a Ministry Course of Instruction during 1958 and, with some further experience, will be available to act as a Deputy to the Rodent Operator.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	119
Agricultural Properties	80
Dwelling Houses	56
Local Authority Undertakings	27
	<hr/>
	282
	<hr/>

Annual Contracts have been entered into for the treatment by the Council of 17 commercial and 11 agricultural properties. The total income from these contracts was £153, and it is felt that the consistent testing and treatment of susceptible sites, as applied under this scheme, is a most satisfactory way of keeping down the rat and mouse population.

The sewers in the area have been treated for rats twice during the year and the results indicate only slight infestation.

The situation in regard to Rodent Control in the district can be considered very satisfactory.

Offensive Trades

There is only one business in the area—bone boiling—which is classed as an Offensive Trade. In view of the nature of the business, comparatively little nuisance is created. The firm has entered into an annual agreement with the Council for the destruction of rats.

Moveable Dwellings

During 1958 the Council issued two new licences in respect of caravans and renewed a licence previously granted. In each case the caravans were of a properly constructed type and suitably sited. The two new licences were granted to persons engaged on work of an itinerant nature and it was anticipated that the vehicles would only require to stay in the Urban District for a limited period.

Quite a number of informal enquiries are made with regard to permission to station caravans within the Urban District, and whilst a dwelling of this type does often solve temporary accommodation difficulties, it must by its very nature be regarded as a substandard unit for permanent living purposes.

Public Conveniences

The Public Conveniences in the town centre have continued to serve a substantial need, but instances of abuse of the premises and malicious damage have become more frequent. Door-fasteners have been broken ; money-locks have been forced and in one instance the entire lock stolen ; copper piping has been wrenched from the walls and stolen ; electric lamps have been broken ; a water closet pedestal has been broken ; the use of soap-cream dispensers has been discontinued because of regular damage to them ; other fittings have been tampered with. Even worse than this story of wilful irresponsibility are the crude habits of some of the individuals using the male conveniences. Those responsible must either be drunk or have warped minds, and it is not surprising that Council employees should object to cleaning up after such practices. Troubles in the Public Conveniences invariably arise during weekends, and one of the most remarkable features is that the culprits have never been found.

Atmospheric Pollution

The Regulations made under the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into force on June 1st, 1958, and the national publicity given to these Regulations undoubtedly aroused public interest in a problem which had previously been given comparatively little attention. The Council supplied copies of the Regulations to all industrial concerns in the area, and during subsequent visits by the Public Health Inspector it was obvious that the firms concerned were taking a serious view of the matter.

Progress has continued on smoke elimination measures at the Salt Works which have been referred to in previous Annual Reports. A temporary Exemption Certificate under Section 2 of the Clean Air Act was granted in respect of certain chimneys at these works on an undertaking by the firm that mechanical underfeed stokers would be installed to the furnaces concerned. Several of these machines have now been fitted and other have been ordered.

No steps have yet been taken by the Council with regard to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. It is felt that while the supply of smokeless fuels is limited there are many worse polluted places than Sandbach which should have a prior claim on these fuels.

Housing

Unfit Houses

Last year's Report expressed the hope that 1958 would present a brighter picture in this sphere, but another 12 months has passed

during which only two dwellings have been closed by Housing Act procedure. In both these cases action was taken as a matter of urgency to prevent further risk to the health and safety of the occupiers.

The lack of progress in connection with the approved programme for dealing with unfit houses is again attributable to delays concerning the acquisition of the land for the building of Council houses. Although the Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of this land was confirmed in November, 1957, various difficulties arose which required further negotiation, and it was not until the end of 1958 that these matters were finally resolved. 1959 should at last see the new houses under construction, and this will mean plenty of activity in dealing with the unfit houses. In view of the late start on this work, it is hoped that the Council will apply itself without any further delay to the elimination of all the unfit houses on the approved list.

Clearance Areas—

Number of Orders made	Nil
Number of Areas declared	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil

Individual Houses—

Number of Demolition Orders made	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	Nil
Number of houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	1
Number of parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	1

Repairs—

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	20
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action—	
(a) by owners under Public Health Acts	9
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	0
(c) under Housing Acts	0

Certificates of Disrepair—

Number of Applications received	17
Number of Applications approved	*19
Number of Applications withdrawn	1
Number of Applications not approved	1
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	15
Number of Undertakings given	3
Number of Undertakings accepted	3
Number of Applications for Concillation of Certificates	2
Number of Applications forCancellation approved ...	1
Number of Applications for Cancellation rejected	1

* This figure includes 4 applications received in 1957

Improvement Grants—

Number of Applications received during 1958	8
Number of Grants approved during 1958	7
Number of Grants disapproved during 1958	1
Total Cost of Grants approved during 1958	£864

Of the 7 grants approved, 4 were in respect of tenanted houses and 3 owner-occupied. In each case the Grant was 50% of the approved expenditure.

Rehousing

The following is a statement of the position with regard to the Register of Applications for tenancies of Council houses at the end of 1958.

Total number of 'live' applications on current Register	137
Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year	95
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years	28
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years	12
Applicants on Waiting List between 3 and 4 years	0
Applicants on Waiting List between 4 and 5 years	2

The above figures would not appear to indicate a very serious position in regard to normal housing requirements, and it is suggested that there is a much more urgent need for the rehousing of families awaiting displacement from houses which the Council have classified as unfit.

FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The Public Slaughterhouse at Flatt Lane, Sandbach, controlled and operated by the Council, is the only slaughterhouse functioning in the Urban District. The operating conditions at this slaughterhouse continued satisfactorily throughout the year, and there was a substantial increase in the throughput. The nature of the trade and the need to maintain the operation of the Slaughterhouse at an economic level by attracting trade from outside the Urban District resulted in the working of long hours, and much of the Meat Inspection had to be carried out outside normal working hours, during evenings and week-ends.

Legislation in respect of Slaughterhouse Hygiene and the Prevention of Cruelty was introduced near the end of the year, and the provisions represented a considerable advance in this field. In anticipation of this legislation and to cope with the increased trade the Council agreed to construct additional lairage accommodation. In view of various other improvements required, and having in mind that the premises are only held by the Council on a 5 year lease, it is worth considering whether the Council should take steps to acquire the ownership of the Slaughterhouse and adjacent land.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and Inspected	726	217	130	3346	937	5356
<i>(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1958)</i>						
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>	<i>CONDEMNATIONS</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	7	3	7	1	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	150	100	2	220	14	486
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	20%	50%	4%	7%	2%	9%
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	9	—	—	2	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	45	—	—	20	122
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8%	25%	—	—	2%	2%

Analysis in lbs. of Condemned Meat

				<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis	...	...		6876	—	—	734
Parasites	...	...	...	1696	—	313	35
Emaciation	...	...	...	570	—	69	—
Septicaemia	...	...	...	652	68	105	—
Pyæmia	...	...	...	—	—	45	—
Actinomycosis	...	...		47	—	—	—
Oedema	...	...	...	1183	—	30	60
Injuries	...	...	...	155	38	6	50
Immaturity	...	...	...	—	24	—	—
Fever	...	...	...	—	38	—	—
Abscesses	...	...	...	268	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	...		372	—	—	37
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				11819	168	568	916
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

It is interesting to observe the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last six years :

Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

		<i>All Diseases</i>		<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1953	...	32 lb.	...	22 lb.
1954	...	23 lb.	...	15 lb.
1955	...	14 lb.	...	10 lb.
1956	...	9 lb.	...	7 lb.
1957	...	9 lb.	...	6 lb.
1958	...	13 lb.	...	7 lb.

The figures for 1958 indicate a setback in the previous trend towards disease-free meat. This is almost entirely accounted for by the fact that additional beasts of poorer quality were slaughtered for despatch to other areas. The meat produced for the Sandbach butchers was of a very high quality.

All meat condemned at the Slaughterhouse is stained with green dye before eventual disposal.

Food Hygiene

Insufficient time has been available to carry out a satisfactory policy of regular inspections of food premises. It is unfortunate that when insufficient staff is available routine visits have to be curtailed, and it is suggested that the general standard of food hygiene is bound to suffer on this account.

Whilst it is felt that the private food premises have been somewhat neglected, nevertheless the Council has endeavoured to set a good example with regard to its own weekly Market. All food dealers other than green-grocers have been transferred to stalls in the covered market, and a number of lock-up stalls have been constructed specially for the sale of food. Other stalls have been improved and adapted for food traders with a view to preventing contamination, and convenient washing facilities have also been provided.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sweet Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at retail stores :

98 tins Meat	8 Meat Pies
218 tins Vegetables	228 lb. Bacon
346 tins Fruit	4 lb. Butter
3 tins Milk	1 tin Cream
1 tin Soup	1 tin Coffee
31 tins Fish	

Milk

The position in December, 1958, with regard to Licensing and Registration was as follows :

Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Registered Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	10
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
Supplementary Licences for T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	5

Ice-Cream

Forty-nine premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice-Cream. Only wrapped ice-cream was sold from these premises and no ice-cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

Other Registered Premises

Fifteen premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and 10 premises are registered for fish frying.

Factories

This is another phase of Public Health work to which it has not been possible to devote sufficient attention during the year under review.

The following table indicated the position for 1958.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	34	11	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	53	9	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	9	1	—
TOTAL ...	115	29	3	—

